

The waste of nonrenewable natural resources, such as the oil shale deposits in Colorado, could have a long-term effect upon all citizens. Unless the Commission acts wisely and recommends policies that will prevent the exploitation of our exhaustible resources, the same situation could exist on the public domain that exists today in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and Kentucky as a result of unwise practices in surface mining. I am not suggesting that the public domain should not be used. Quite the contrary. I advocate prudent use of our public lands. Surface mining should be allowed under controls that will insure the proper reclamation of the land after the mineral deposits are removed. The land must be returned to some profitable use — grazing, timber production, public hunting areas, or housing for our future generations.

We are a fortunate nation to have so many natural resources, and we would be a foolish nation to permit either exploitation or waste. This is why I unequivocally favor the multiple use concept for public lands.

Most of our standing timber reserves are on the public domain. The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have done a fine job of directing the use of this land. Regrettably, most of this timber is mature and is subject to disease and insect attack. The multiple use concept on this land, in my opinion, should be followed to safeguard a sustained yield and to increase the growth potential of the forest products; to provide erosion control and watershed protection, so necessary to our precious water supply; to guarantee a suitable habitat for the resident game species; and to help supply the increased demand for outdoor recreation. We must continue to try to convince the various advocates of single purpose use that this nation cannot long afford to lock up vast areas of the public domain in a not only nonproductive but actually wasteful status. The multiple use concept, properly regulated, should be followed.

One of the most pressing needs in the states east of the Mississippi River is for additional outdoor recreation areas. Because of our dense population and our limited land resources, the State of Maryland is acquiring approximately 6,000 acres annually for public recreation. Fortunately, there are a few outstanding areas left in Maryland that can still be acquired at a reasonable price. The cost of this land, however, is escalating rapidly — up to 18% annually in some parts of the State. In Montgomery County, for instance, we are now paying up to \$4000 per acre for State park land. Because of a bulging population, we are finding it increasingly difficult to purchase open areas before these lands are subdivided, developed, and forever lost.